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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to a non-final Office action dated November 12, 2003. Claims 1-13, 15, 18 and 20-37 were examined. All of the examined claims, except claim 6, were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as the anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,131,073 issued to Honda et al. (hereinafter "Honda"). Claim 6 was objected to as depending from a rejected base claim.

Claim 1

Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda. In response to this rejection, independent claim 1 has been amended to include elements originally recited in dependent claim 2. Claim 1 now includes an element requiring the integrated circuit to assert a temperature control signal, and to supply the asserted signal on an output terminal of the integrated circuit. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

On page 6 of the official action dated November 12, 2003, the office points to FIG. 1 of Honda, specifically elements 10, 30, 14, and 12, to support an assertion that Honda discloses a temperature comparison being performed external to the integrated circuit. Contrary to the Office's assertion, however, the integrated circuit illustrated in FIG. 1 is identified by reference numeral 2, which includes elements 10, 14, and 12. Only element 30, the EEPROM, is external to semiconductor integrated circuit 2. Moreover, EEPROM 30 is used to store temperature data and actuation data, and does not perform any temperature comparisons.

Additionally, the assertion discussed above actually misses the point: performing comparisons external to the integrated circuit is not claimed. Claim 1 recites asserting a temperature control signal and supplying the asserted signal on an output terminal of the integrated circuit. The office has not identified any portion of Honda that teaches or suggests supplying an asserted temperature control signal on an output terminal of the integrated circuit. Thus, the applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest each and every element of recited independent claim 1, and respectfully requests the Office to withdraw its rejection of independent claim 1, and allow this claim to issue.

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Claim 3

Dependent claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Honda. The applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest supplying an asserted temperature control signal on an output terminal of an integrated circuit. Inasmuch as Honda does not teach or suggest supplying a temperature control signal on an output terminal of an integrated circuit, Honda cannot teach or suggest deasserting such as signal. Consequently, the applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest each and every element of dependent claim 3, and respectfully requests the office to withdraw its rejection of dependent claim 3, and allow this claim to issue.

Claim 13

Independent claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Honda. Specifically, on page 3 of the official action the office points to columns 2 and 3 of Honda in support of its position that Honda discloses generating a signal on an output terminal of an integrated circuit, asserting a signal when the measured temperature is greater than a first limit value, and deasserting the signal in response to either a control location on the integrated circuit being accessed or to the measured temperature falling below a lower limit value. In reviewing the cited portions of Honda, the applicant is unable to find any indication that a signal provided on an output terminal of the integrated circuit is asserted when the measured temperature is greater than a first limit value and deasserted in response to either a control location access or to the measured temperature falling below a lower limit value.

Claim 13 recites that a signal generated on a first output terminal of an integrated circuit is asserted when the measured temperature is greater than a first limit value and deasserted in response to either an access to a control location or to the measured temperature falling below a lower limit value according to a programmable mode of operation. Consequently, the applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest each and every element of recited independent claim 13, and respectfully requests the Office to withdraw its rejection of claim 13, and allow this claim to issue.

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Claim 20

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda. Specifically, the office points to columns 2-3, ll. 56-19, and figures 1 and 2 to support its position that Honda discloses accessing a control location in an integrated circuit to cause a signal on an output terminal to be deasserted. In reviewing the cited portions of Honda, the applicant is unable to find anything that teaches or suggests accessing a control location in an integrated circuit to deassert a signal on an output terminal.

Claim 20 recites comparing a measured temperature to a first limit value, generating a signal on an output terminal of an integrated circuit according to the comparison, and accessing a control location on the integrated circuit to cause the signal to be deasserted. Inasmuch as Honda does not disclose accessing a control location in an integrated circuit to deassert a signal on a first output terminal of the integrated circuit, the applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest each and every element of recited independent claim 20. The applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the office to withdraw its rejection of claim 20, and allow this claim to issue.

Claim 23

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda. Specifically, the office points to Honda, column 2, ll. 30-55 to support its position that Honda discloses asserting a second signal on a second output terminal of the integrated circuit when the measured temperature is above a second limit value, thereby indicating that temperature has exceeded a safe limit. The applicant submits that the cited portions of Honda do not teach or suggest asserting a second signal on a second output terminal of the integrated circuit when the measured temperature is above a second limit value.

Claim 23 recites comparing a measured temperature to a first limit value, generating a signal on a first output terminal of the integrated circuit according to the comparison, comparing a measured temperature to a second limit value, and asserting a second signal on a second output terminal of the integrated circuit according to the comparison. The applicant submits, therefore, that Honda does not teach or suggest each and every element of recited independent claim 23,

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and respectfully requests the office to withdraw its rejection of claim 23, and allow this claim to issue.

Claim 25

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda. Specifically, the office points to Honda, column 2, ll. 35-55 to support its position that Honda discloses a means for providing a control signal on a first output terminal of a processor according to a comparison of a measured temperature to a first limit value the control signal to control temperature of the integrated circuit. The office further asserts that the same portion of Honda discloses a means for providing an indicator signal on a second output terminal of the integrated circuit when the measured temperature is above a second limit value, thereby indicating that the measured temperature has exceeded a safe limit.

In reviewing the cited portions of Honda, the applicant is unable to find any mention of a control signal used to control the temperature of the integrated circuit. Additionally, the applicant is unable to find anything that teaches or suggests a means for providing a control signal on one output terminal of a processor in a means for providing an indicator signal on a second output terminal of the integrated circuit.

Claim 25 recites a means for providing a control signal on a first output terminal of the processor to control the temperature of the integrated circuit and a means for providing an indicator signal on a second output terminal of the integrated circuit when the measured temperature is above a second limit value. Inasmuch as Honda does not disclose using a control signal to control the temperature of the integrated circuit, or providing a control signal on one output terminal of a processor and providing an indicator signal on a second output terminal of the integrated circuit, the applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest each and every element of recited independent claim 25. The applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the office to withdraw its rejection of claim 25, and allow this claim to issue.

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Claim 27

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda. Specifically, the office points to Honda, column 2-3, ll. 35-39 and figure 2, to support its position that Honda discloses compare logic to provide a first and second signal indicative of the comparison between a temperature measurement and a first and second temperature limit value. The Office relies on the same parts of Honda to support its position that Honda discloses first and second output terminals coupled to provide respectively, the first and second signals.

The applicant submits that the cited portions of Honda do not teach or suggest first and second output terminals coupled to provide respectively, the first and second signals indicative of the comparison between the temperature measurement and first and second temperature limit values. Since claim 27 recites elements including first and second output terminals coupled to provide respectively, the first and second signals indicative of comparisons between the temperature measurement and first and second temperature limit values, the applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest each and every element of recited independent claim 27. The applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the office to withdraw its rejection of claim 27, and allow this claim to issue.

Claim 30

Claim 30 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda. In response to this rejection, claim 30 has been amended to include the limitations formerly recited in independent claim 31. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Claim 30, as amended, recites a first output coupled to provide a first temperature control signal corresponding to the indication provided by the compare logic. The applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest a temperature control signal (e.g. a signal used to control temperature). Instead, Honda discloses control signals adjusted to compensate for temperature. Inasmuch as Honda does not disclose a temperature control signal, the applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggest each and every element of recited independent claim 30. The applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the office to withdraw its rejection of claim 30, and allow this claim to issue.

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Claim 35

Claim 35 was rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Honda. Claim 35 recites a integrated circuit comprising a second output coupled to provide an indicator signal in response to a second indication provided by compare logic, wherein the signal indicates that the integrated circuit has exceeded a second temperature limit. The applicant submits that Honda does not teach or suggests a second output coupled to provide an indicator signal, and that, therefore, Honda cannot support a rejection of claim 35 under 35 USC 102(e). Consequently, the applicant respectfully requests office to withdraw its rejection of claim 35, and allow claim 35 to issue.


Dependent Claims

The applicant submits that each of the dependent claims 3-12, 15, 18, 21-22, 24, 26, 28-29, and 32-37 depends from allowable independent claims, and that each dependent claim is itself also allowable for at least this reason. The applicant, therefore, respectfully requests such allowance.

CONCLUSION

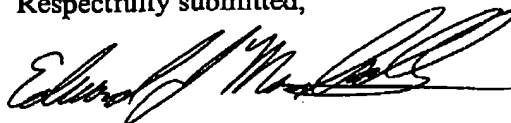
In summary, claims 1, 3-13, 15, 18, 20-30, and 32-37 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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